

REMARKS

Claims 31-41 have been canceled to put the application in condition for allowance.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 31 to 41 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lange. Claims 31 to 41 have been canceled and it is believed that this rejection is no longer applicable. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Rejection under Doctrine of Obviousness-type Double Patenting

Claims 2-43 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1-25 of United States Patent 6,117,807. Enclosed in a Terminal Disclaimer, which Applicants believe renders this rejection not applicable to the claims. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Note Regarding Patent Copies Enclosed in Preliminary Amendment

The Examiner has noted that copies of certain U. S. patents were enclosed with the Preliminary Amendment. These patents were cited in the Preliminary Amendment to support Applicant's contentions of the meaning in the art with regard to certain terminology, and not for purposes of 37 CFR 1.56. See Page 12, lines 2, 3, 4, 19, and 20 of the Preliminary Amendment. Since they were cited in that paper they were enclosed therewith as a courtesy to the Examiner.

Summary

Since the double-patenting rejection is no longer applicable and the pending claims are not subject to any other rejection, it is believed that the present application is in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to allow the present claims.

Respectfully submitted;

Dated: May 28, 2002 By:

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